
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 11, 1896.—Referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads and ordered to be printed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT presented the following

LETTER FROM THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, TRANSMITTING, IN RESPONSE TO SENATE RESOLUTION OF APRIL 25, 1896, AS TO DELAY IN THE TRANSMISSION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS THROUGH THE WASHINGTON POST-OFFICE, LETTER FROM THE POSTMASTER AT WASHINGTON.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., May 8, 1896.

SIR: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of an inquiry from the Senate of the United States, bearing date of the 25th ultimo, over the signature of William R. Cox, Secretary, in which request is made that the Senate be informed—

Why there is so much delay in the transmission of public documents through the Washington post-office, and whether it is not possible to secure the prompt dispatch of such documents from Washington.

I desire, in this connection, to invite your attention to a copy of a letter inclosed, received from the postmaster at Washington, in which he sets forth at length that there is no detention of these documents at the Washington City office.

Very respectfully,

WM. L. WILSON,
Postmaster-General.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

WASHINGTON CITY POST-OFFICE,
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER,
Washington, D. C., May 4, 1896.

SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, informing this office that you have received a request from the Secretary of the United States Senate for information in regard to the delay in the transmission of public documents through the Washington City post-office, and requesting me to investigate the matter thoroughly and advise you fully at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to state in reply, that, after the receipt at this office of public documents, they have been treated invariably as all other mail matter and forwarded to their destination with the least possible delay. During the present session of Congress there has been, perhaps,

on two occasions, a delay of about twenty-four hours in transmission of this class of matter caused entirely in those instances by the fact that it was received in such large quantities as to render its proper handling in less time a matter of impossibility; but at no other times, as far as the records of this office show, has this class of matter been unnecessarily or improperly delayed.

The volume of mail deposited here from the various document, folding, and committee rooms of the Senate and House, during a session of Congress, added to that received from the residences of Senators and Representatives, and from the numerous document divisions of the Executive Departments, is at times so great and of such bulk that occasionally its transmission is necessarily and unavoidably delayed for a few hours; but in no instance, except in the two cases to which I have already alluded, has this or any other class of mail matter been unduly detained at this office. The fault, if any, of the detention of these documents, is not here, and an investigation at any time will prove, I think, that this class of mail passes through the Washington office with promptness and dispatch.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

JAMES P. WILLETT, *Postmaster.*

By J. EDWIN WILSON, *Assistant Postmaster.*

Hon. FRANK H. JONES,

First Assistant Postmaster-General,

Division of Salary and Allowance.

